

# ECHO IRELAND

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Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
January/February 2002



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**Deadline for next edition  
March 15th**

**February 24th  
Phoenix Euro Rally  
in Coolmine, Dublin**

**March 2/3rd  
IRTS AGM  
in Knock, Co. Mayo**

**April 7th  
Limerick Rally  
Jury's Inn, Limerick.**

**Monday April 1st  
IRTS  
2m Counties Contest**

## EI7M Break Long Standing Multi-Single EI Record in CQWW SSB Contest



The East Cork Group were joined at Poer Head by four members of the Bristol Contest Group for the 2001 CQWW SSB Contest. They set out to break the long standing record of 9.5 million points set in 1980 by EI9CB and after a fantastic weekend, finished with a claimed score of over 12 million points.

In the picture are, left to right: Alan G3XSV, John EI8IR, Dave EI4BZ, Jerry EI6BT, Jim EI8GS, Geoff G4FKA, Robin G3TKF, Jeremy EI5GM, Neil EI3JE/M0AXF and Cormac EI4HQ. Missing from the picture is Wilf M0WLF.

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## From the Editor.....

Welcome to another edition of Echo Ireland.

This is the last one before the AGM which you all know is being held in Knock on the first weekend in March. I have had several very forceful complaints about the AGM clashing with the ARRL SSB Contest and it is unfortunate that this has happened.

Apparently, this could not be helped due to hotel availability.

Again, I apologise, especially to members of my own group who have been regular attendees at AGM Dinners over the years.

This years AGM weekend is being hosted by the Mayo Group and promises to be one of the best in recent times. Lots of different activities are planned and Knock is not a bad place to bring the XYL/YL for a day or two.

This is a big undertaking for a relatively new club and they deserve all our support.

Rooms at the hotel have been blocked booked so contact the Mayo club with your booking.

### Worked All Ireland

The WAI Aiward nets go from strength to strength. 7.680 is regularly busy and 21.317 is getting popular in the U.S., particularly on Sunday afternoons.

A few more counties are required so please give a call there.

The net finishes at 1700utc for the Irish Hour. (see report elsewhere).

Have a look at the report of intruders in the next column. This is a very worrying development, particularly when we get reported from abroad.

You help would be appreciated in pinpointing any illegal users of our bands.

See you all in Knock.  
Dave EI4BZ

### Home Construction Awards

Entries for the Folan Shield and the Kevin Freeney Trophy will be accepted on the day of the AGM. Please hand them to the Awards Committee as early as possible.

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting March 3rd 2002 Belmont Hotel, Knock, Co. Mayo

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1500 on Sunday March 3rd 2001 at the Belmont Hotel, Knock, Co. Mayo.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Vice-President	Sean Nolan EI7CD

Committee	
EI2HX	Pat Fitzpatrick
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey
EI3GV	Brendan De hOra
EI3IX	Joe McFadden
EI4HX	Peter Grant
EI5DD	Steve Wright
EI5DI	Paul O'Kane
EI6FE	Paul Kirkby
EI6HW	Noel Mulvihill
EI7IS	Mark Wall
EI8JA	John McCarthy

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

### Intruders on 10 Metres

The following is an excerpt from message from an amateur in Northern Italy currently circulating on the monitoring service reflector.

We are aware that Mass is being broadcast on the 11 metre band all over the country but any broadcasting on 10 metres will have to stop.

If you can identify the parish referred to below, we would like to hear from you.

*"Last Sunday morning (January 13th) I had also the 'pleasure' of listening to the whole Mass from the St. Phillips Parish somewhere in Ireland on 28310 FM, a strong 59+20 signal.*

*Their choir is not so bad, by the way, but why this show on Ham band?"*

### 6 Metre Trophies

Entries for the 6 Metre Trophies (sponsored by EI7IQ) should be sent to the Contest Manager John McDonnell EI6IR to reach him no later than February 24th.

### Slievenamon Trophy for 70cms

Entries for the Slievenamon Trophy (sponsored by the Tipperary ARG) should also be with the Contest Manager by February 24th.

### Service Awards

Nominations are sought for the service awards, the Arup Cup, Collins Cup, and the Conway Cup.

Send your nomination to the Awards Committee c/o EI4HX



# On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,  
13 Hazel Road, Togher, Cork  
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Welcome to the first On The Air column for 2002.

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Holidays and found some time to operate on the various HF bands which had some excellent conditions.

Certainly last year was a good one for DX'ers with some of the rarest entities been QRV. After many delays the 3B6RF came on from Agalega Is, two trips were made to Conway Reef with 3D2CI/3D2CY and Chuck did a great job as a one man DXpedition as 3Y0C from Bouvet.

February was hopping with the sounds of D68C racking up the QSO's and amongst the other DX we had the likes of 9M0M, BQ9P, E30NA, FR5ZU/T, HK5QCX/0M, P5/4L4FN, T2T, T5X, VP8SDX, YA5T and the ZD7K/ZD8K trips.

This year promises to be just as good with trips planned to Ducie, North Korea, San Felix, Baker Is and loads more not announced yet.

## Band Reports

The big news for us EI's is of course Declan EI6FR and Dermot EI5IQ joining a large group activating the South Sandwich Islands and then going onto South Georgia.

The various Islands lie approximately 1,000Km east of the Falklands with the South Sandwich Islands being made up of some nine Islands of volcanic origin. Some of them are still active today, making operations from there a bit different hi!

South Georgia then on the other hand is totally different in that it's a large Island, over 200 miles in length, barren with steep, glacier covered mountains but does have some sheltered bays for anchorage. There is a rebuilt early 19<sup>th</sup> century whaling town named Grytviken which tourists can visit today.

The famed explorer Ernest Shackleton stopped off here in 1914 en route to his ill-fated attempt to cross Antarctica by foot and ironically had to endure severe conditions by crossing South Georgia on foot some twenty months later to rescue his companions stranded off the Antarctica Peninsula. Shackleton died on a subsequent trip in 1922 and is buried on South Georgia in Grytviken.

The only people now on South Georgia

are a permanent presence by the British Antarctic Survey which also maintains a Biological Station on the nearby Bird Island.

Having arrived safely at Southern Thule Island, I first heard them on 20m CW at about 21:00UTC on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January using the callsign VP8THU but had to wait until the following day to work them on 10m CW, hopefully they made it into some of your logs.

Ed, 4L4FN, left North Korea on December 24<sup>th</sup> with over 3,000 lucky DX'ers safely in the log and was due to go back there by now.

All the UN volunteers left Afghanistan for the Christmas Holidays but this didn't stop a few "Slims" from popping up though with YA5T been heard around the bands mostly on CW and RTTY. Other popular calls used by the pirates were S21YJ from Bangladesh who has been QRT since March 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 and A9/RK3WL which is a bit suspect as only full A92 calls are issued in Bahrain. Even though the "official" YA5T station is off air at the moment, activity continues from Afghanistan with myself and Vince, EI5IO, both working Marcel, YA/F6EKD/M, on 10m where he said he had verbal permission to operate with a promise of written documentation to follow, a case of "Work First, Worry Later" hi!

Another person operating from there with verbal permission is Nick G4KUX, who is working there since December 10<sup>th</sup> with an ongoing Telecommunications project.

Plenty of activity from some of the less active African DXCC's with Francois, VE2XO, touring around Guinea as 3XY6A before taking a side trip to Roume Island (IOTA AF-051) as 3XY8A.

9Q0AR was once again active giving out a nice multiplier during the ARRL 10m contest and this DXCC is currently all over the news with the large-scale eruption of a volcano!

Gus, who is very active as 9U5D, had some company in the guise of Piero, IK2BHX, coming on as 9U5X.

The Gambia was aired over Christmas in the form of Peter, VK4AO, keeping the masses happy with the call C56YT.

One for the prefix hunters was 7X0MT from Algeria while after living in Egypt for several years Luciano EA7CHR, finally got his own call as SU9LL.

Brian, better known to us as 9J2BO, aired a special call 9J0S to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marconi's bridging of the Atlantic with the letter "S".

The licence fee of \$500 didn't stop Paolo, IW0FT, from coming on from Asmara Eritrea as E30OA with cards going via IZ0CKJ.

The Pacific was also very well represented over the Holiday season with some Finns heading to Samoa to spend Christmas there and play radio with the call 5W0VK between Dec 19-Jan 2, then it was onto Tonga with the call A35VK from Jan 5-15. QSL both calls to OH3JR.

Warming up the airwaves from Samoa also was Bill, W7TVF, who came on as 5W0VF.

The Australs played host to Leo and Jon QRV as FO0FRY and FO0SEV respectively, KH7U/5 was on from Palmyra, once a privately owned Island and now sold on to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to preserve it and allow Dxsers to keep on activating it!

Another US Dependency and famous for a decisive battle during World War II is Midway Island which now boasts a hotel to accommodate diving enthusiasts who like to dive down to the numerous wrecks scattered around the Island but are quite happy to tolerate Hams who wish to play radio. Those spending their holidays there included Dick, AH4/AH7G and the other Dick, NH6FP/KH4, who had to leave the Island in a hurry as he had a heart condition which needed treatment in a hospital better equipped than the Midway Island Clinic. Luckily the story had a happy ending with Dick making a satisfactory recovery.

Two well known G's are heading for Midway in March, more of that in the "Up and Coming" section.

The IOTA hunters out there would have been well pleased with those Pacific Entities but there also were a good number of IOTA numbers active over Christmas which are not DXCC Entities themselves.

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Some Thai ops came on from AS-126 as E29AL between Dec 10-15 with QSL's looked after by HS0GBI.

The deserving got a new IOTA with CE7AOY/8 putting Riesco Island, part of the Magallanes and Antarctica Chilena Province South Group, on air from Dec 17-22 and getting the Provisional IOTA number of SA-091.

Gaby, OD5NJ, and Elmo, EA5BYP, made a very brief appearance on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> from Ramkin Island, AS-108, while the keyboarders out there amongst you were kept happy with XF3IC mostly coming on RTTY from Holbrox Island, NA-045 off Mexico's coast.

The largest Festival on the Hindu calendar takes place every year in January on Sagar Island at the mouth of the Ganges where upwards of 100,000 people bathe in the Holy River. What's of interest to IOTA chasers is that Sagar Island now has it's own IOTA number of AS-153 after the members of the local club who normally provide emergency communications during the festival were persuaded to come up on 14.260MHz during last years Festival and make enough QSO's to satisfy requirements for a new number.

Only the basic amount of QSO's were made making this years operation very much sought after.

### Up And Coming

We certainly are starting off the first few months of 2002 with an excellent number of DX trips proposed from various far-flung places, ranging from the Antarctica to the remotest Islands of the Pacific.

Starting off on the African Continent, I2UIY is on schedule to come on from 5U (Niger) from Feb 5-18 while going down south DL2SL and SP6IXF will work the pile-ups from Namibia between Feb 15-Mar 8 as V51/DL2SL and V51/SP6IXF respectively.

Members of the Norwegian DX Group "Team Hot Coil" head to the tiny Island of Sao Tome (AF-023) for a large scale operation as S9LA (and not the earlier announced call of S92LA), all this due to be QRV from Feb 4-11. Meanwhile Henryk, SM0JHF, is keeping the airwaves warmed up for the Norwegians and is quite active now as S92JHF. Heading due west Rick, NE8Z/HC1MD, goes on a tour of Ecuador and may pop up from SA-056 as HC1MD/HC4 some-

time between Feb 1-15. QSL him via K8LJG.

Already mentioned a few issues ago listen out for Cocos Island (TI9) when TI9M fires up Feb 17-Mar 4.

Going further west still, we have well known Island hoppers Michel, F6COW, and Dominique, F6EPY, heading for the sun-drenched Island groups of Samoa and Vanuatu with Samoa first off between Feb 19-28 with the calls 5W0MP and 5W0DA, then onto the New Hebrides group (OC-035) which form part of the Island nation of Vanuatu.

A large scale operation will take place from Trindade Island (SA-010) between Feb 18 and going right through to Mar 2. This should allow us to work them on all bands/modes as previous operations were either one man trips or severely time limited due to it being a military base with permission to operate difficult to obtain. However, this time they have the full co-operation of the Brazilian Navy so should be a good one with six metres looked after and even PSK31 to keep the keyboarders happy hi!.

However, it's the month of March though which will provide all the DX as Dr Hrane, YT1AD, best known for his 3V8BB contest operations and for leading the two trips to Conway Reef last year, has secured written permission to operate from North Korea (P5). Starting Mar 5<sup>th</sup>, he and five other ops are there to train some North Koreans for their Ham licences so hopefully we'll have the chance to work North Korea on a regular basis, like we work Bhutan, China and Albania nowadays.

Also battling for our attention will be a second attempt on Ducie Island by much the same team who had to abandon the initial attempt last November. This will hopefully take place during the Spring Equinox which has some excellent HF conditions due to the fact that the length of day and night is equal in both hemispheres.

Another DX trip cancelled last year but making a second assault on our S-meters will be XR0X (CE0X) the Island of San Felix, which along with San Ambrosio make up the Islas Desventuradas (Dry Islands) one of the three CE0 DXCC Entities (the others being CE0Y-Easter Is and CE0Z-Juan Fernandez) and are located some 972km from the Chilean mainland.

Together, the Islands have a total surface area of only 10.3 sq. Km and have a

military garrison on San Felix.

Some UK ops are heading in different directions in March with Ken G3OCA, who has activated the Blaskets and Sallee Islands on occasion is heading west to Mexico and will try to activate some of Mexico's many IOTA numbers including NA's 162-163-164-165 and 167, phew!;

Taking it easy and going to Midway will be Jim G3RTE while Phil G3SWH lands himself some more QSLing chores when they'll come on air as W4M from Mar 30- Apr 6.

Beating them to Midway by a few weeks will be KH4/DL7VFR and KH4/DL2RUM who plan to be QRV between Mar 3-16 having had to cancel the trip back in September last year.

Ending up March will be Nick (ex VK2ICV and now VK1AA) heading to the Temotu Province (H40) Mar 28-April 12 before heading back to VK and heading up another DX trip to Mellish Reef with the same call used previously, VK9ML, with a time frame April 12-22.

Another DXer "double jobbing" will be the aforementioned Dr Hrane YT1AD who hopefully successful from his exploits in North Korea is heading for Baker Island, which together with Howland Island make up the Entity of Baker and Howland Islands (OC-089) which lie about 1,620 miles SW of Hawaii. The two Islands lie 37 miles apart from each other and while all previous DXpeditions were all from Howland, this time it'll be from Baker Island. Their main claim to fame is that in 1937 the aviator Amelia Earhart was lost in the Pacific while en route to Howland Island, which was a refuelling stop on the air route to Australia.

For those of you interested in trivia Baker Island is approx. 380 acres in area with a maximum length of 5,780 ft and greatest width of 3,600ft.

Staying with bits of rock barely above the high tide mark, the Vietnam Amateur Radio Club are going to the Spratly Islands (AS-051) in April which have a history of conflict as they lie smack in the middle of the second busiest shipping lane in the world, the South China Sea. Currently China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines lay claim to various reefs and rocks and all of them maintain a military presence on their "claimed" pieces of land.

(Continued on page 7)

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The East Cork Group, EI7M was formed over 12 years ago and has entered many contests over the years.

However, the CQWW was rarely attempted seriously and anytime it was, bad weather always seemed to play a big part in the proceedings.. The last weekends in October and November always seem to guarantee a gale.

This is one of the drawbacks of the cliff-top location at Poer Head, just east of Cork Harbour and about 15 mile south of Midleton.

During 2001, the group were fortunate when Neil M0AXF emigrated to EI and found work in Cork City and even better, he decided to live in East Cork.

Neil was a very active member of the Bristol Contest Group and as a result the Bristol Group were invited over for a joint effort in the CQWW SSB contest in October.

Anyone who keeps an eye on what's happening in the contest scene in EI will be aware that, in 1980, a big multi-single effort, led by John Hurley EI4DA using the club callsign EI9CB, ran up a fine score and were narrowly beaten into second place in Europe. They did break the existing record and were unlucky not to take first place in Europe.

This long standing record, 9.6 million points, was the target for EI7M and much discussion on station design and tactics went on in the weeks leading up to the contest. Much of this was via e-mail between Bristol and East Cork.

The big fear was bad weather and as it happened both the weekend prior to the contest and the weekend itself were exceptionally fine and calm, hardly a breeze.

Three fully rigged station were decided on and work commenced the weekend before the contest.

The locals erected the 2 element 40 meter beam together with the seven element TH7 for the HF bands on their portable tower at 60 feet.

A Cushcraft A3S tribander was erected on a timber pole for the 3rd station.

Four members of the Bristol travelled over on the Ferry to Rosslare bringing with them a 100 foot mobile lattice tower, a two element 40m beam and a tribander together with all the accessories, rotator, cables etc. This was erected in quick time on the Friday of the Contest weekend.

The other aerials included a full size delta loop, hung vertically out over the cliff off a 65 foot timer pole and a dipole for top band. A loop and dipole were also used on 80 metres.



Top Photo: On the left John EI8IR is on the multiplier station while Alan G3XSV works the pile ups on the run station.

Bottom Photo: 2 element for 40 metres and the TH7 for 10, 15 & 20 being erected on the 60 foot mobile tower. (EI8IR on the ladder. EI5GM rolling out the cable, EI6BT on the right and in the background, EI4BZ climbing the pole).

One of the big disadvantages of Poer Head for a CQWW contest is the inability to run beverages, for listening on the low bands, in many directions. Instead, a visit was made to the station of John EI7BA and his K9AY loops were dismantled and re-erected at the head. John also came to the rescue when a rig went down just at the start of the contest.

Packet Cluster was provided for the weekend with a dedicated VHF link from the QTH of John EI8IR which was connected via the Internet. It worked flawlessly.

The weekends activities went very well with none of the usual technical problems. See page one for operator details.

Operators from both groups mixed

Band	Claimed Score		
	QSOs	Zones	DXCC
160	127	10	48
80	396	15	74
40	544	23	91
20	1404	35	128
15	2074	37	146
10	2377	36	143
Total	12,014,796 Points		

very well and further co-operation will no doubt take place.

The Bristol Group are returning to Curaçao for this years IOTA Contest, while the East Cork Group have yet to finalise their plans.

## Trophies Awarded at AGM 2001

Sheila Piper Cup	Colm Ardiffe EI3H
Arup Cup	Ronnie McGrane EI9ED
Collins Cup	George McHugh GI4SRQ
Pat Conway Cup	Rev Padraic J. O'Kelly EI5DA
Folan Shield	Ronnie McGrane EI9ED
Kevin Freeney Trophy	Tony Breathnach EI5EM
The Presidents Cup	Joseph Dillon EI4FV
Ian Morris Memorial Trophy	Thos Caffrey EI 1333/EI7FIB

IRTS DX Trophy	
IOTA 2000 Single Op.	John Desmond EI7GL
Hal Hodgins Trophy	
IOTA 2000 CW	Martin Gillespie EI8GP
Paddy Daly Microphone	
SSB Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
IRTS HF Shield	
SSB Field Day (Restricted)	Mayo R.E.N. EI2K
Pete Daly Cup	
CW Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
Paddy Smyth Cup	
CW Field Day (Restricted)	Jerry Cahill EI6BT
Thomond Trophy	
VHF/UHF Field Day (Open)	East Cork Group EI7M
VHF Shield	
VHF/UHF Field Day (Restd)	Tipperary A.R.G. EI7TRG

**If you have one of these trophies in your possession, please get it back to the Awards Committee as soon as possible.**

*(Continued from page 5)*

## On The Air

Lately most of the activations have been from Pulau Layang Layang (Swallow Reef), claimed by Malaysia and given the prefix 9M0. It was here that the D68C cut their teeth exactly four years ago as 9M0C, so hopefully the Vietnam parts of the Spratlys will be able to satisfy DXCC requirements with their call XV9TH.

Rounding up the news about proposed trips, no less than two groups have announced their intentions to go to the Revillagigedo Archipelago (XF4), more in future issues.

Finally for those fans of E-QSL, the ARRL bureau shipped 1,932,315 cards last year and do keep those cards as recently on E-Bay, a 1937 QSL card for a British Mission to Lhasa, Tibet with the call AC4YN sold in auction for \$1,136, now where's my IK0 stack!

Thanks to the Daily DX and keep listening.  
73 de EI2HY.

## EURA, European Union Regions Award

Hello,

I am IK2UVR, Pier Luigi Anzini, author and manager of EURA, European Union Regions Award. I would like to introduce this new award based on European Union Regions. To get this Award it is necessary to have contacted and confirmed with QSL card (paper card or electronic card) stations located in the different Euro-Regions as displayed in the official table.

At the moment there are 180 of them, but their number will increase when new members will join the European Union. The validity of the contacts starts from the date of membership, as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> January 1958 (date of starting of the Treaties of Rome) for Belgium, Fed. Rep. of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands.
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 1973 for Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland.
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 1981 for Greece.
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 1986 for Portugal and Spain.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1990 for ex DDR (Y2/Y9 prefixes are NOT valid)
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 1995 for Austria, Finland and Sweden.

All the contacts must be made from the same Country and using the same callsign.

There is only one version of the Award: mixed. All the bands assigned to the Radio Amateur Service and all the modes are allowed, satellites included.

There are 5 classes of the Award, identified by coloured star-shaped stickers:

1. Basic: 50% of the Euro-Regions confirmed (at the moment 90)
2. Bronze: 60% of the Euro-Regions confirmed (at the moment 108)
3. Silver: 75% of the Euro-Regions confirmed (at the moment 135)
4. Gold: 90% of the Euro-Regions confirmed (at the moment 162)
5. Honour Roll: 100% of the Euro-Regions confirmed (at the moment 180)

When new members will join the European Union, the numbers above will change, according with the fixed percentages. Issued Awards won't change, but further upgrades will have to respect the new levels.

To claim the Award the QSL cards are not required but they must be in possession of the applicant and could be requested anytime for checks.

Application forms must be sent to this address:

EURA Manager, IK2UVR  
c/o Sezione ARI Busto Arsizio  
P. O. Box 125

I – 21052 Busto Arsizio (VA), Italy

The fee is 5 Euro or 5 U.S.\$ for each requested award.

Upgrades are free.

All information is at the official website: <http://ir2b.too.it>  
The EURA has proper software, free written by IK6CAC.  
It is downloadable at this web site: <http://www.ik6cac.com>  
Many thanks for your attention and best 73's de  
IK2UVR, Pier Luigi  
e-mail: [ik2uvr@malpensa.it](mailto:ik2uvr@malpensa.it)



# Club Roundup

## Cork Radio Club

### ARRL 10m Contest

Members of the club took part in the ARRL 10 meter contest using the call EI7DJ over the weekend of December 15/16th.

Operation was from the East Cork site at Poer Head. Over 1400 contacts were made. We would like to thank the East Cork Group for the use of the facility and our operations manager Jeremy EI5GM for organising the event.

### Christmas get together

We had a large gathering of members and former members for our annual Christmas get together in Wilton Park House on Monday 17th December. Among those present was IRTS President Dave Moore EI4BZ.

### Jerry Burke Trophy

The Jerry Burke Trophy was awarded to Assumpta Bowen EI8JF for her application and achievement in passing her CW test in a month. The club is looking forward to an active year ahead.

Club meetings and classes have now resumed after the Christmas break.

### New Callsigns

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following members from last years class who received their new callsigns:

Tom Whelton EI8FXB  
Alan Bennet EI8FWB

David Deane of Innishannon has just received the callsign EI9FBB. He will be attending the CRC for CW lessons and is very anxious to get on the HF bands and contesting ASAP.

Anatoli from Lithuania and a member of CRC has just received the call EI4JF.

### ATV

Cork Radio Club will shortly be on the air using ATV. The aerials are in place and P5 pictures are being received from the repeater.

### Aerial improvements

The HF antenna at EI5CRC has been increased in height by 20 feet and the vertical radiator section is now clear of Wilton Park House and appears to be performing much better.

## South Dublin Radio Club celebrates 21st birthday

SDR is 21 years old this year. This achievement was marked at the club's recent Christmas Party. Three of the founder members - Derek EI7FM, Stuart EI8EN and Alan EI7EH - were at the party and presented current chairman, Jim EI4HH, with a plaque listing the founder members.

For the record, the list of the radio experimenters who came together in 1980 to set up South Dublin Radio Club are believed to be as follows:

Liam Wynne EI2FL  
Peter Harris EI3FC  
Nigel Lyon-Bowie EI5EK  
Ben Rodriguez EI5BYB  
Tony Baker EI6EW  
Niall Syms EI6FB  
Roy Cookman EI7H  
Alan Shattock EI7EH  
Brian Cusack EI7FB  
Derek Peyton EI7FM  
Stuart Kinnear EI8EN  
Ben Croly EI8EQ

If anyone has been left off this list, or if anyone has additional information about the formation of the club, SDR members would be interested in hearing about it.

Contact any club member or Joe EI7GY at 01-2854250.



Three of the founder members - Derek EI7FM, Stuart EI8EN and Alan EI7EH - were at the party and presented current chairman, Jim EI4HH, with a plaque listing the founder members.

### Kohei Nishiyama returns to Japan

Kohei EI8JC, a very popular member of South Dublin Radio Club, has returned to Japan following a stint working for his Japanese employer in the Dublin area. Kohei was a regular attendee at SDR meetings, and was generally accompanied at club meetings by junior op Mo-moka, aged 5, who used the opportunity to improve her English and help the SDR members to work on their Japanese.

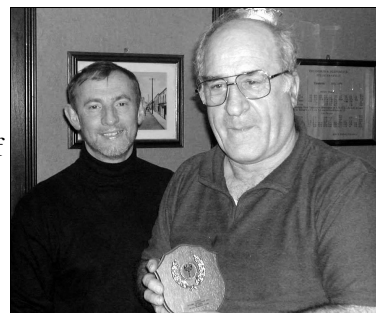
Kohei, who has the call JR0BAQ, is an expert CW operator, and operated on CW and phone with the EJ4GK crew on Aran Mór during the IOTA contest in July. Both Kohei and XYL Michiko, who had the call sign EI8FOB, participated in the Autumn Counties Contest. A few months ago, Kohei joined other club members at the JOTA outing in Wicklow, and helped to introduce the Scouts present to the joys of amateur radio.

On his final club night, Kohei was presented with a Waterford Glass bowl by the SDR members, to mark their appreciation for his attendance and participation in club events.



### Autumn Challenge Winners

The South Dublin Radio Club Autumn Challenge is a challenge that runs during the month of November, with rules similar to the well known Spring Challenge, with the exception that the Autumn Challenge is confined to SDR club members. This year, the winner of the open section was Peter Henshaw EI5JE, while the winner of the restricted section (for CW only) was Kohei Nishiyama.



Peter EI5JE with his trophy for the SDR Autumn Challenge  
Also in photo is Jim EI4HH



## East Cork Group

The Annual General Meeting of the East Cork Group was held on Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the club premises at Poer Head.

The outgoing Chairman/Secretary Cormac EI4HQ reported on another successful year for the group, the highlight probably being the visit of some members of the Bristol Contest Group for the CQWW SSB contest where the long standing EI9CB multi-sing EI record score was finally surpassed.

The two-man team of EI6BT and EI4BZ achieved second place in Europe in the ARRL CW\Contest and for the first time in Europe the 2,000 QSO barrier was broken in the SSB Field Day.

As usual, a station was entered in the open section of CW field day and there were 3 single operator entries in the IOTA Contest, EI8GS, EI8IR and EI4BZ.

John EI8IR and Jim EI8GS put in very creditable entries in the ARRL 10 Metre SSB Contest while Dave EI4BZ and Jeremy EI5GM did single band entries on 80 and 10 metres in the CQWW DX CW contests.

During the year Cormac EI4HQ got the EI0TEN 10 metre beacon up and running and plans are well advanced for other bands.

The following Officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairman	Jim EI8GS
Secretary	Jerry EI6BT
Treasurer	John EI8IR
QSL Manager	Denis EI6HB
Webmaster	Cormac EI4HQ

The group decided that subject to sufficient interest, a 2 metre transatlantic beacon would be set up during the summer. Anyone interested should contact Dave EI4BZ at ei4bz@eircom.net

Due to circumstances beyond the webmasters control the web site address for the East Cork Radio Group, EI7M has had to be changed.

The new address is <http://4c.ucc.ie/~cjgebruers/ei7m.htm>.

Service will resume from the new address as soon as possible.

Please note that unfortunately there is no automatic re-direction from the old address.



## South Eastern ARG

Pictured are members of both Cork Radio Club and members of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group who recently sat the Theory Exam together in the Roanmore GAA Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

Also pictured are Declan Purcell (Manager - Roanmore GAA Centre) and Gerry Mulvin who conducted the examination.

## EI0TEN 10 metre Beacon Web Site

Due to circumstances beyond the webmasters control the web site address for the EI0TEN beacon has had to be changed. The new address is;

<http://4c.ucc.ie/~cjgebruers/ei0ten.htm>. Service will resume from the new address as soon as possible.

Please note that unfortunately there is no automatic re-direction from the old address.

## Limerick Radio Club

Members of the Limerick Radio Club are planning a Dxpedition to "Inisheer" hopefully to tie in with a major contest. An advance party from Limerick will be heading to the island shortly to sort out the final details.

They will be using the clubs callsign EJ0A for the duration on the island.

Richard EI8JE has been appointed as the clubs webmaster and is presently working on the clubs site. Details of this will be announced soon.

## Cork ATV Group

A new satellite receiver has been fitted on the 23cms ATV repeater at Spur Hill. Filters were also re-aligned and initial tests indicate repeater input sensitivity has improved.

Further details on this Group from Aedan EI3EG at QTHR

## Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network has a new venue for club meetings, the upstairs room of Stensons pub in Ballyvary village.

Meetings are held at 2100 on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February 2002.

The Mayo Rally will be held on Sunday March 3rd 2002 in the Belmont Hotel, Knock.

The IRTS AGM will be in the afternoon at the same venue and the dinner dance will be on the Saturday evening.

Details from Padraic EI9JA, e-mail rally@mayoren.net, or from the club web site: [www.mayoren.net](http://www.mayoren.net).

## North Kildare Radio Club

We regret to announce that the North Kildare Radio Club (EI2NKR) has ceased to operate.

The licence has been returned to the ODTR and the clubs IRTS membership has ceased.

The club has had to close as a result of lack of attendance, mainly due to the fact that most members have moved away from the area.

# Letters Page

Dear Dave,

## Direct Debits

Following the euro changeover, I wrote to the members of the Society who pay their annual subscriptions by direct debit in order to confirm the euro subscription rates. I also included a paragraph to explain that, instead of collecting a small number of annual subscriptions every month as they fall due, I would collect them only in January, April, July and October. I know from feedback I have received that I did not explain this properly, and some members may have assumed from my letter that we were moving to quarterly subscriptions. This is not the case: subscriptions continue to be collected from each member just once a year on the date quoted in the letter. Incidentally, subscription renewal dates are shown on all newsletter labels, with "(DD)" after the date for those with a direct debit mandate in place.

Speaking of direct debits could I encourage more members to use this form of payment. Sending renewal notices is expensive for the Society and keeps our Treasurer away from DXing. I have a supply of direct debit mandates waiting to be sent to anyone who asks!

Joe Ryan EI7GY, 34 Watson Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin  
jryan@iol.ie, 01-285 4250

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter from John, EI3DIB in the last issue of Echo Ireland.

To John – EI3DIB

To quote from your letter in the last issue of Echo Ireland; *"The content of any letter to any Journal should always be studied with great care before sending..."* With this, I could not agree more. In the quote which you referenced from my previous letter, you may not have noticed the wording but I did say that *"I am responding to the letter from EI3DIB..... firstly in my capacity as the IRTS radio news editor, secondly, in my capacity as the secretary of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group....."*

I emphasise the word 'capacity' because I wrote in my capacity in the aforementioned positions to defend the work and actions that I carry out in these positions. I firstly defended my ability to edit the radio news, and I secondly defended the article that I myself put into the news about SEARG, which I do from time to time. I did **NOT** at any time say that I was writing on **behalf** of either organisation therefore did not need to seek approval. I do not need approval to defend my own work.

You criticised the work that I do in my capacity in these positions (which you have a right to do) and I defended it. I defend this still, and "yes" I do defend it in my capacity as radio news editor and secretary of SEARG, and "no" I am not implying the backing and approval of many like minded amateurs.

You say that I contradicted an instruction from the IRTS, but you are not entirely clear on how or where I did this. Could you clarify?

Yours respectfully and best 73's  
Mark Wall – EI7IS

## Cork Radio Club DX Award

Charles Carpenter EI4IS has taken over the management of the Cork DX Award from Frank Mason EI^EVB who has been managing the award for the past few years. A new certificate is being planned.

## South Dublin Radio Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of South Dublin Radio Club takes place on Tuesday the 12th of February at 8.00 p.m. in the club QTH at Marian Road, Rathfarnham.

This is an important meeting, and all members are requested to attend.

## Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Since the change of the news bulletin time in early December TARG are delighted with the response from experimenters and listeners around the country. The club have received a substantial increase in the number of reports to the IRTS radio news bulletin. Tipperary Amateur Radio Group would like to thank all of their friends, old and new, for joining them at the new time. It is hoped that the new time is more convenient for all.

The IRTS news bulletin from Tipperary is broadcast on Sunday evenings at 8:30 pm on 145.450 MHz and simultaneously on 433.450 MHz.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group would like to extend a Cead Mile Failte to the following new members:  
Irik EI/SP3SUX, Mike EI/G8JCD and Andy EI5JF.

The monthly meetings of TARG will be held on the first Thursday of every month and the next meeting will be held on Thursday the 7th of February at 8 p.m. in Raheen House Hotel Clonmel and visitors are welcome.

## Atlantic 252

Atlantic 252 the high power long wave radio station located near Trim in Co. Meath, is no longer 80% owned by CLT (Radio Luxembourg).

It has been purchased by an English Company that specializes in Sport.

As of midnight on Wednesday the 2nd of January it ceased broadcasting as a music station and became a 24 hour sport only station and is now known as Teamtalk 252.

Atlantic 252 first went on the air in September 1989 initially broadcasting for 12 hours a day before commencing 24-hour operation.

RTE still hold a 20% interest in the station.

## Blessings

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful...you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder...you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

## The Irish Hour

The last 2001 Sunday Irish Hour (21317 kHz at 1700Z on Dec 30, 2001) had a record number of check ins. A sampling of calls to show the width and breath of the coverage follows: 4Z4UN, ZS6HRD, EA8/EIOCL, G4RMA, EI8EM, 6Y5CN, W3KEN, WB9KOY, VE3EIK and W7DFO. W2MAT and Joe (W2ORA) served as net control.

However, Joe was using the special event call K2A which may have attracted the more than usual number of check ins. This call has been issued to the South Jersey Radio Association (SJRA) for a few weeks.

SJRA may be the oldest radio club in North America; their birthdate is 1916. Propagation was just fair but Ben EI8EQ managed to check in mobile in Dublin.



## Cork Radio Club - Jerry Burke Trophy

Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS, Chairman of Cork Radio Club presenting the Jerry Burke memorial trophy to Assumpta Bowen EI8JF for her application and achievement in passing her CW test in a month.

## The EURO Award

The EURO Diploma is sponsored by the R.E.F of Department 19 to commemorate the start of the unique European currency on the 1st January 2002.

Rules:

Contact or hear one station from each of the member countries of the Euro zone, in total 12 countries.

CT Portugal  
F France  
LX Luxemburg  
PA Holland  
DL Germany  
EI Ireland  
OE Austria  
ON Belgium  
EA Spain  
I Italy  
OH Finland  
SV Greece

A contact with the station TM2E counts as a wild card in the case where you are missing a country.

All bands and modes are accepted except via repeater.

QSOs to take place between 1st January 2002 and 31st December 2002, midnight GMT.



Applications for the diploma to be sent before 31st December 2003.

Send only a certified list; no QSLs are required.

A lovely wooden plaque is awarded (21x14cms).

Cost : 20€ or 25 IRCs for European stations, and 25€ or 30 IRCs for the rest of world.

Award Manager :

F8BPN DEJEAN Mauricette  
10, Impasse M.R GUILLOT,  
Lotissement les Roubeys,  
19240 VARETZ  
France.

(f8bpn@wanadoo.fr)

**Information on all IARU QSL Bureaus is available on:**  
**<http://www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.html>**



## Maritime mobile special event station EI0YN.

L.E. Niamh, the newest ship in Ireland's Naval Fleet, is about to embark on a good-will mission to Asia, in association with Enterprise Ireland. This is the first visit by an Irish Naval ship to Asia. For the duration of the visit a special event call sign EI0YN will be used. This call sign was chosen to match the ship's own call sign of EIYN.

Some details on L.E. Niamh

Length Overall	: 78.84 metres
Beam	: 14.00 metres
Draught	: 3.80 metres
Displacement	: 1500 Tonnes
Max. Speed	: 23 Knots
Endurance at 15 knots	: 600nm
Complement	: 44
Commissioned	: 2001

L.E. Niamh was constructed by Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd. UK.

The special event station will operate on the 7MHz, 14MHz, 21MHz and 28MHz bands, while the ship is on the high seas.

The ship will occasionally call the "Irish Hour" on 21.317MHz.

There will be a special series of QSL cards to commemorate the voyage.

QSL via the bureau or direct to EI6JA.

## Mike EI4HF in Afghanistan

Mike EI4HF has gone on a Concern sponsored 'DXpedition' to Afghanistan. He left EI on Friday 18th. January from Cork. His flight took him from Dubai to Islamabad and then to Mazar-I-Shariff in Afghanistan. Was there in Mazar for 2 days and then 4 wheel drive over Hindu Kush mountains to a place called Fayzabad in Hindu Kush Mountains. When finished there it's on to a place called Talokuan and eventually Rustak, all in Hindu Kush mountains.

When finished there it's back to a place called Charnan, which is a camp on Pakistan border near Kandahar in Afghanistan.

Lots of snow there and temperature is around minus 20 at night in Hindu Kush mountains.

Mike hopes to have access to email and when he has made contact we will try to set up HF communications with him. There are other UN operators active from YA so our hope is that Mike will get in touch with them out there.

All his friends in the Amateur Radio world wish him well.



Denis EI6HB

## Reading the Mail

By Michael McNamara,  
EI2CL

Happy New Year and welcome to compilation #17 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 26 November 2001 to 19 January 2002.

During this time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from Albania, ARSK Kenya, LABRE Curitiba and Porto Alegre, KARL, RAAG and ROARS bureau.

In addition 4 parcels from ARRL (each 2 kilos), ARI, JARL, PZK and SRJ (each 4 kilos), kept up the numbers of cards.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

BW2000, BY4AOH, DT42KFAF, E4/JM1LJS, SVA (Coast Station Activity - April 1999 Athina Radio, R2/OZ5IPA, S587N, W1F, WY2OOO, X5EBL, X5JHI, XU7ABB, YU800FG, ZA/IK0EIM, 3W2KYU, 5N39CEN, 5T5U, 6K0VM, 6M0MM and 9E1S.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50 and 144MHz with Europe.

For island chasers the following were noticed:

DS2LGK/P, E30MA, HL1VAU/2, AH6PN/HR6, J48SAM, JA6DJD, JA6GXX, JF3BFS, JH6KFY, JR6EA, JR6SVW, JW/IK2JYT, KB5GL/4, KH2/7M3GOH, KH0/JA5EWH, LU3XX, OX/SP8UFO, OX2K, S79S, S92DX (50MHz), SW8LTI, T88CL, T88DX, V31TR, VR2SS/P, ZD9ZM (1.8MHz), 3B8/KD6WW, 4S7YSG, 4N9W, 5I3A, and 9M0M.

Congratulations to all concerned.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2002.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

## George Mabee VE3AXK, Silent Key

George Mabee VE3AXK, formerly EI1CZ passed away peacefully in his sleep at his daughters home in Ottawa, Canada on Thursday morning December the 20th, 2001.

Many of the old timers may have remembered George when he lived in Ennis and worked in the mining industry in Ireland. George will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

## Members Advertisements

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT101ZD with mic.  
Alinco DR 150, 2m mobile  
AOR300A Communications Receiver  
Kantronics All mode TNC  
Hameg Dual beam 20MHz oscilloscope  
All with manuals.  
Contact Jerry at 021-4871947  
or kelleher\_jerry@emc.com

**Shack Clearance :**  
Kenwood TS570D with PSU, Desk Mic, Speaker and Digital Mode's interface, perfect condition, ... £900.00 ONO.  
Yaesu FT101ZD Mk3, includes WARC bands ... £300 ONO.  
Yaesu FT208R Hand Held £70.  
Icom IC 751, perfect condition, a real classic ... £550 ONO.  
Icom R7000 RX top band to microwave bands, perfect, ... only £650.  
Contact Craig EI3FW, 087 2624881

**For Sale:** Weather Station BAA 928U,  
Displays weather forecast.  
Compak Pressario Computer 2262 with printer. As new condition, 2 years old.  
Fox Tango newsletters  
EI8FC 061-397004

## Worked All Ireland Award Scheme

The Euro price for the WAI award certificates is now 6 Euro and 50 cent.

Endorsements now cost 4 Euro or 6 US Dollars.

WAI Books now cost 8 Euro, 5 pounds sterling or 10 US Dollars.  
This includes postage costs.

The books are available from  
Noel Mulvihill EI6HW,  
Hillquarter, Coosan,  
Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

All award applications should be sent to the Awards Manager,  
Tom Rea EI2GP, Bridge Street,  
Headford, Co. Galway.

## Final Squares Table 2001

Call	2m	4m	6m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI5FK	109	0	440	28	0	577
EI7GL	40	9	402	5	0	456
EI3IO	1	20	417	0	0	438
EI3EBB	3	0	314	1	0	318
EI7BMB	5	0	310	0	0	315
EI3IX	7	2	289	6	0	304
EI2JD	26	0	225	1	0	252
EI4IX	80	0	172	0	0	252
EI2FSB	37	0	190	2	0	229
EI6IZ	0	0	182	1	0	183
EI7BFB	28	0	144	1	0	173
EI7FAB	0	3	170	0	0	173
EI3IS	0	0	140	0	0	140
EI7CD	0	0	139	0	0	13
EI9IW	6	1	115	4	0	126
EI8FNB	4	0	110	0	0	114
EI4CF	9	0	91	1	0	101
EI7IX	7	0	23	2	0	32
EI7IQ	0	1	30	0	0	31
EI4BZ	10	0	0	0	0	10
EI5FZB	6	0	0	0	0	6
EI6FZB	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI9JA	0	1	0	0	0	1

Any of the above operators with square updates for the 2001 table should forward them as soon as possible to EI3IX at joe\_fadden@yahoo.com Anyone who may not have sent in totals through out the year can still do so.

The 2002 squares table is now up and running, 4 operators have submitted updates, this table will soon appear on EI7GL's web page and will be published in the next issue of Echo Ireland.  
Joe EI3IX

## Cork Repeater Group AGM Tuesday February 19th Wilton Park House, Bishopstown, Cork



### Outgoing Committee

Seated: (L to R)  
Tony EI2CV, Technical Manager;  
Mike EI2IB, Chairman;  
John EI6AK Treasurer;  
Jim EI8GS, Secretary.

Standing: (L to R)  
Anthony EI2HY,  
John EI2FG,  
Vince EI5IO

Cork Repeater Group will be holding it's AGM on Tuesday evening the 19th of February at 2000. The venue is Wilton Park House, Cork.  
Subscriptions are 20 Euro and can be paid to John Mooney EI6AK.



# Contest Corner

With  
Dave EI4BZ  
ei4bz@eircom.net

As you can see from the results, field days are not very popular with clubs in EI.

This really a pity as they provide members with an opportunity to get involved in many aspects of the hobby that they may not normally be exposed to.

On HF, groups have the choice of keeping it very simple by entering the restricted sections where only one single element aerial is allowed and even this is limited to a height of 35 feet or 10.7 metres with only two support points allowed.

Two or three people can easily manage this type of operation. A portable shack can be a tent, caravan, horse box, the back of a van or anything suitable you can find.

Power can be provided by a small generator, usually used to keep 12 volt batteries charged, or you could operate solely using batteries with a big enough capacity.

Most restricted stations use only one aerial support holding up a centre feed wire in an inverted-V configuration. There is some mystery about the length of wire used, use as much as you can tune on all bands. This should be fed with an open wire feeder, preferably straight on to the terminals of the tuner but in practise you could you a balun on a short length of coax.

Using a computer for logging makes the job very easy and stress free.

Paul EI5DI will be doing a demonstration at the IRTS AGM weekend in Knock.

A lap top that runs on around 12 volts is ideal but be careful if you want to use the shack computer. Be sure that your generator is well regulated. More on this subject later.

Congratulations to all who participated in the Field Days and Counties Contest last year, especially the winners.

Hope to see you all in Knock to collect the trophies.

## VHF/UHF Field Day Operators

### EI9E:

EI2FG, EI3JB, EI5FDB, EI6GF, EI7FJ, EI7FXB, EI8GS, EI8JA, EI9HG

### EI5IX:

EI3IX, EI5IX, EI7FAB, EI9IW, EI9JA

## Results - Autumn Counties Aug 26th

High Power Fixed		QSOs	Counties	Points
John Caffrey EI2JD		40	15	2565
Elphin Windmill EI2SBC		21	14	1372
Michiko Nishiyama EI8FOB		23	12	1200
John Corless EI7IQ		17	9	450
Kohei Nishiyama EI8JC		3	2	10
High Power Portable				
SDR EI2SDR		58	17	4437
FM Only				
John Kelly EI4HS		29	15	2250
Oscar Reynolds EI7IW		17	12	792
Paraic Baynes EI9JA		18	11	638
Eamonn Kavanagh EI3FFB		20	12	564
Dave Moore EI4BZ		10	6	198
Low Power Portable				
Peter Grant EI4HX		35	14	1848

## CW Field Day June 2/3rd

	QSOs	Points
<b>Restricted Section (Paddy Smyth Cup)</b>		
Joe Ryan E7GY	328	1112
<b>Open Section (Peter Daly Cup)</b>		
EI7M East Cork Group	781	2453

## VHF/UHF Field Day July 7/8th

Restricted Section (IRTS VHF Shield)		QSOs	Points
EI7TRG Tipperary Group		47	32,724
Open Section (Thomond Trophy)			
EI5IX Mayo REN		243	370,646
EI9E Network Southern Area		386	363,453
EI9E		EI5IX	
QSO	Points	QSO	Points
70cms	21 7,616	10	907
2m	95 138,488	33	16,482
6m	170 217,349	200	353,257

## SSB Field Day

Restricted Section (IRTS HF Shield)		QSOs	Points
EI5CRC Cork Radio Club		440	133,536
Open Section (Paddy Daly Microphone)			
EI7M East Cork Group		2,077	1,291,790

## Dates for 2002

April 1st	2 Metres Counties Contest
June 1st & 2nd	CW Field Day
July 6th & 7th	VHF/UHF Field Day
August 25th	2 Metres Counties Contest
September 7th & 8th	SSB Field Day

# Ham, Jam, Spam and SirCam

by Leslie Long, EI4DU

It's quite a number of years since I first heard the constant jamming of the London repeater.

Hams are well used to communicating in difficult circumstances, although man-made QRM would traditionally have been unintentional.

In recent years, the Internet has brought another means of communication, namely Email.

Email (Electronic mail) enables an operator to send a message from one side of the world to the other in seconds, anytime of the day.

No QRM, QSB and very little QRK. Indeed, it is as easy to send a hundred emails as it is to send one. As with ordinary mail, electronic mail is not limited to transferring ordinary text. Files containing images, music, video and computer programs can be attached to the email.

Unfortunately, this makes sending large amounts of unwanted email inexpensive and extremely easy.

Most households will be familiar with promotional material for everything from the current bargains at the local supermarket to what's on the local theatre, delivered to you through your letter-box.

The electronic version, commonly known as spam, promotes everything from, well just about everything!

For a few euros/dollars, a spammer can purchase a CD containing millions of email addresses, then send millions of spam emails to addresses all over the world. The addresses are usually "harvested" from web pages posted in the Internet, but some are supplied by Internet Service Providers and companies who ask you "logon" in order to view restricted pages.

For example, I currently have about a dozen email addresses, some I use as my contact address, others I have reserved for future use.

I use [leslielong@eircom.net](mailto:leslielong@eircom.net) on my home page and all general correspondence. I currently receive around six hundred emails per day on this account, most of which are spam.

Another unpublished address, also with [eircom.net](mailto:eircom.net), never receives email (apart

from occasional holiday greetings from [eircom.net](mailto:eircom.net)).

To make matters worse, some of this "junk" email can contain malicious code, designed to corrupt data on your computer, and any other computers it can find.

Generally known as "Viruses", the code can do anything from playing endless Barry Manilow songs, to totally wiping all the data on your computer.

Typically, viruses are subtler in delivering their payload. Many recent viruses, such as "SirCam", take advantage of loopholes in the computer's operating system or programs.

For example, a virus might replicate itself, attach itself to a document found in a common storage area and send itself to every email address found in the address book of the computer's email program. That could mean sending you profit and loss spreadsheet file to all your friends and business associates!

Although it is probably impossible to avoid being hit by a virus, here are some tips to reducing the risk of infection:

§ Use anti-virus software, and update it regularly. New viruses appear every day, and can propagate around the world in hours.

§ Avoid downloading junk email and viruses by screening your email before you download it. Check out <http://www.mailcleaner.com>, <http://www.mailwasher.net> or my own multi-platform Java application at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~leslie/testpage/download.htm>.

§ Don't store important information in predictable locations. For example, MS Windows users shouldn't store documents in C:\My Documents, or Email Addresses in the Outlook or Outlook Express Address Book.

Indeed, you shouldn't install Anti-Virus software in the folder suggested by the installation program as some virus simply delete known anti-virus folders.

If you really want to use the Outlook/Outlook Express Address Book, include an entry that will never be delivered

([aaaaa@aaaaaa.aaaaaa](mailto:aaaaa@aaaaaa.aaaaaa)) and your own email address. This way, if a virus does manage to send a message to every address in your address book, you'll get a message from yourself and a warning that an email could not be delivered!

§ If your email address is published anywhere on the Internet, expect it to attract junk mail.

Remember that addresses posted to Newsgroups could also be harvested. Set-up a separate private account for use by your family, friends and business associates, allowing you to change your public address at will.

§ Don't open attachments unless you are sure who they are from and what they contain. Junk email and virus writers try to trick you into becoming exposed to their advertising or malicious code.

§ Many junk emails encourage you to click a link at the bottom of the page in order to be removed from their mailing lists. Often, you are simply letting them know that your email address is valid, and therefore should not be removed. Also, it may earn them another few cents from their sponsors.

Valid removal links, such as the removal link on the IRTS news bulletin sent out every week, should be easily recognisable, and relate to a valid web page.

Beware of links to IP numbers. For example, <http://123.45.67.89> could be anywhere. It would be relatively easy to copy the homepage and other pages of the Amazon.com website, and ask surfers to go to <http://123.45.56.67.78/books/ordering.htm> with their credit card details!

And recent viruses entice you go to a web page, where a script on the web page delivers a viral payload.

§ When sending and replying to email, send documents as Rich Text Format or better still plain text, as opposed to Word documents, which can carry macro viruses.

For more information on viruses go to: <http://www.sophos.com/virusinfo/explained/>.





## What are they on about now?

### A look at the workings of the IRTS committee with John Corless EI7IQ

#### VHF

Two committee meetings were held since the last issue of Echo Ireland. The first of these was in mid December and the next in mid January.

At both meetings Joe Fadden, EI3IX, told the gathering that Ireland is now considered very active on VHF.

Joe's contribution to this status is enormous, - he has worked hard at "selling" the VHF/UHF activity to EI amateurs and has raised the profile of the EI prefix worldwide on these bands.

Ireland is very active on Six metres, of late and entries for the IRTS Six Metre Shields should be up on last year. Large volumes of cards go the through the buro for contacts on both Six and Four Metre bands, confirming the increased activity.

Hopefully activity on the upper end of the spectrum will continue at this pace, and the new Squares Table should make interesting reading when it appears.

#### 6m in VHF/UHF Field Day

The inclusion of Six metres in certain VHF contests was discussed at the January meeting. There are a number of angles from which to view this one.

Some people believe that an opening on Six would distort the contest and discourage operation on two metres and bands above.

Others hold the view that contacts should have different points weighting to encourage operation on the higher frequencies.

Another view is that six should be excluded totally from contests.

What do you think? No resolution was found at the January meeting, so the debate goes on.

#### Awards

Nominations, and/or comments on awards, are urgently sought by the Committee, for the annual presentations at the AGM.

In addition if you have any of the trophies lying around the house, from last year, please return it now to Peter Grant, EI4HX, the Chairperson of the Awards Committee.

The Society makes a number of presentations at the AGM, in addition to those which are won in competition, and your input in these awards is greatly valued.

The committee meets in advance of the AGM to select the award winners, and their regular complaint is lack of input from members.

#### Not Too Late.

The nominations of the outgoing IRTS Committee for the various posts and committee places for next year, are published elsewhere in this issue of Echo Ireland, but it is not too late to send in your nomination.

So, if you are interested in serving on the Committee, or know somebody that would, please do not hesitate to make your recommendations.

#### Radio News Deadline

At the January meeting, the committee debated the merits of issuing the radio news script in electronic mail format only, to the newsreaders.

Currently the news is prepared on Tuesday night and hard copy scripts are posted to some of the Newsreaders on Wednesday morning.

This situation means that stories breaking after Tuesday's deadline are delayed by a week, - in addition Tuesday seems early for compilation of a news bulletin which is not transmitted until the following Sunday.

A brief discussion also took place on a suggestion that Echo Ireland should also be transmitted electronically, by PDF file, which seems to be the standard for these things. The idea being that the current printed format would be replaced by an electronic version.

It was an interesting debate, - the major advantages seem to be a reduction of work (collection, packing and posting,) and printing and postage cost savings.

It was only a three or four minute item, and I don't think any changes will be made for the foreseeable future. Any comments?

#### Decline in Clubs

It appears that the number of clubs, is following the trend of Rallies, and is starting to drop.

A few clubs have failed to renew their membership of the society over the past number of months, which is an indicator of a decline.

I for one believe that Clubs are a very important element of the hobby, and it is disappointing to see the numbers drop.

Clubs organise classes for newcomers usually, and are a central point of contact. They encourage new licensees and participate in contests, activities, and share ideas amongst members.

Some people believe that maybe we have too many clubs, but there are key population areas where we have no club at all, which is a shame.

It is important to support your local club in any way you can, the benefits of membership always outweigh the hassle of travelling, etc.

#### Phoenix Rally

The annual Phoenix Rally, takes place this year on Feb 24 in Coolmine Community School, making it the first Rally of the year and the first Euro rally. Doors open at 11.00 am and car parking is available at the school.

This is the last surviving Dublin rally, and deserves every support.

The organisers deserve considerable credit for all the hard work they put into organising the event annually, which is usually a great rally.

#### Mayo Rally

The organisers of Mayo's first Rally are planning a big event to coincide with the IRTS Dinner and AGM.

The nearest railway stations are Ballyhaunis and Claremorris.

Unless you are travelling from Westport or Castlebar, Claremorris is a stop too far, so intending rail travellers would probably be best disembarking at Ballyhaunis.

The club had been talking about running a bus from the station to the rally, if sufficient interest is shown.

*(Continued on page 17)*

(Continued from page 16)

Located just off the N17, the Belmont Hotel is easy to find for motorists.

One of the features of the Rally is a demonstration section, where aspects of the hobby would be displayed, i.e. PSK, Packet etc.

It should be a very interesting rally.

## Limerick Rally

The Limerick Rally, scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> moves to a new venue this year, in Jury's Inn.

The organisers of this Rally are hoping to build this into Ireland's premier Rally, which is an exciting development.

Last year's Rally was lost due to the Foot & Mouth scare at the time, and the Club had planned to host the AGM and Annual Dinner of the IRTS at the time.

The Dinner never went ahead, the AGM much later than normal, was held in the Summer, in Athlone.

## Licensing

No meeting of the IRTS Committee would be complete, nor would a report on the meetings, without reference to the ongoing situation with the licensing authorities. Both December and January meetings visited the subject with no good news to announce yet.

The Society is promised new legislation in the near future, but of course this situation has existed for a number of years now. Are we any nearer? I don't know!

## Feedback.

Since I have started writing this column for Echo Ireland, I have received considerable feedback from readers, mostly positive, I am delighted to say.

I want to express my thanks to all who have written, rang or mentioned it on the air, and to all who have read the articles. The purpose is to summarise what has been happening at the IRTS Committee, who after all manage the affairs of the Society, and are totally answerable to you, - the members.

If there are any points that you feel the Committee should be discussing or formulating a policy on, you have an excellent opportunity at the AGM, to raise these topics in the open forum.

That's it - hope to see as many as possible of you at the AGM.

John Corless, EI7IQ,  
January 20 2002.

## I.A.T.C. - The Irish Amateur Television Club.

The 2001 A.G.M. of the I.A.T.C. was held recently in the Headford Arms Hotel in Kells. There was a good attendance of those interested in ATV, with amateurs from all counties along the East Coast, from Wicklow to Louth and Cavan in attendance.

Among the items discussed were plans to extend the coverage of the ATV Repeater, EI2ATR. Additional antennas and filters are to be fitted as soon as the weather permits and when Ronnie has a "window of opportunity".

EI2ATR is situated near Kingscourt on an elevated site at 1000 feet A.S.L. with facilities for 23 cms and 10 GHz. ATV.

The repeater is run and maintained by Ronnie, EI9ED. A recent addition to the site has been the provision of a wind charger and a bank of batteries that provides most of the power needed to run the equipment there. This is known as 'Ronnie's Green Machine'.

Apart from repeater activity, there is a good deal of simplex working in the Dublin, Dundalk and Cork areas. Cork ATV'ers have their own repeater that covers the City area.

It is quite simple for anyone interested to view this 'alternative' TV. All that is needed is an unmodified Satellite Rx and an antenna, which could be a simple dipole if you live within a few miles of an ATV'er.

Satellite Rx's should be available now at little or no cost as they are being replaced by Digital versions all over the country.

If anyone is interested in looking at ATV they should give a call on 144.750 MHz on the 2 Metre Band FM and there is sure to be someone there who will be only too glad to give help and advise and perhaps a shack demo of ATV.

There are plans for an ATV Rally in the Spring where there will be demos and 'Goodies' available.

Hope to hear you on 144750 !

Rod EI3CZ

## Contest Calendar

### February

2/3rd	0001-2359	10-10 International Winter Contest	SSB
9/10th	2100-0100	RSGB 160m	CW
9/10th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC	
9/10th	0001-2359	CQ/RJ RTTY WPX	RTTY
16/17	0001-2359	ARRL DX	CW
23/24th	1500-0900	RSGB 40m DX	
23/24th	1300-1300	UBA Contest	SSB
23/24th	0600-1600	REF	CW
22/23/24th	2200-1600	CQ 160m	SSB

### March

2/3rd	0001-2359	ARRL SSB	SSB
16/17th	1200-1200	Russian DX	
16/17th	0200-0200	BARTG Spring RTTY	RTTY
30/31st	0001-2359	CQWW WPX	SSB

### April

1st	1400-1600	IRTS 2m Counties	
6/7th	1500-1500	SP DX	
12/13/14th	2300-2300	JIDX HF	CW
13/14th	2100-2100	Yuri Gagarin DX	
13/14	1800-1800	King of Spain	
20/21st	1800-1800	Holyland DX	
20/21st	1200-1200	GACW	
20th	1500-1859	EU Spring Sprint	CW
20/21st	1200-1200	YU DX	

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

**Limerick Radio Club**  
**Annual Rally**

**Jury's Hotel, Ennis Road  
Limerick**

**Sunday April 7th**

The rally had to relocate as the previous venue has closed.

Traders confirmed to date include Compustore and Yaesu UK as well as all the other EI traders.

There will a raffle on the day and Yaesu UK have kindly sponsored a handheld radio.

**Anybody requiring a table should contact Paul EI6FE at QTHR.  
ei6fe@eircom.net or 061-360122**

**Phoenix Amateur Radio Club**  
**Euro Radio Rally**

**Coolmine Community School**

**Sunday February 24th 2002**

**Doors open at 1100**

**Admission 3 Euros**

**Car Parking available**

**Tea Bar and sandwiches**

**Further details from Tom EI2AJ at QTHR**

## Mayo Radio Experimenter's Network

# IRTS AGM Weekend March 2/3rd 2002

### Talks and Demonstrations

The 2002 Mayo Rally isn't just about buying and selling. In addition to a large number of traders we've also arranged for some excellent talks and demonstrations.

### Meteor Scatter

Well known VHF DX'er Dave Cawley, EI4IX, will give a talk on Meteor Scatter using High Speed CW. Dave is responsible for a number of EI 'firsts' on VHF, and has sufficient Italian contacts on two metres to claim the Worked all Italian Provinces Award. This required at least 60 two metre Italian contacts from Dave's home in North West Mayo, impressive stuff!

### Amateur Television

We have two attractions lined up for those interested in ATV.

- The ATV club will giving a demonstration of "Amateur Television in EI".
- Daniel Cussen and Tom, EI7HT, from South Dublin Radio Club plan to transmit live TV pictures from a site 16 km away using a 23cm link.

### Computer Contest Logging

Paul O'Kane, EI5DI, will be demonstrating his world famous SD range of contest logging programs. Paul is happy to give SD key files by email, free of charge, to any EI's or GI's who ask. Contact: paul@ei5di.com

### and more!

- APRS
- WinLink 2000
- Irish North West Passage Expedition
- etc.

**IRTS AGM at 3:00 PM**

### Traders include

- Long Communications
- Vine Antenna Products
- PMR Sales
- Linear Amp UK
- S.E. Communications
- Computer Sales

Plus "Bring and Buy", Club Stands, and more!

### IRTS Dinner Dance

The IRTS Dinner Dance will be hosted by MREN at the Belmont on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the evening before the rally. The Belmont has an award winning restaurant, and music will be from an excellent live band. Dinner served at 8:30 PM, music 'til late! Tickets are available at €30.00 each.

We have block booked 30 rooms at a special accommodation rate of €1.74 per person sharing, including breakfast for that night at the Belmont, and these can be booked via the club. Local Bed and Breakfast establishments will also be open.

To book a ticket for the dinner dance, or a room for Saturday night at the Belmont, please contact any of the following:

**Frances Taheny, EI5J.....087 9029155**  
**Terry Ebdon, EI9IW.....087 2842430**  
**Padraic Baynes, EI9JA.....087 6957154**

or

**email: [booking@mayoren.net](mailto:booking@mayoren.net)**

### Other Attractions

- IRTS Book Stall
- Morse Tests
- AREN
- Raynet
- Co-operation Ireland
- An Garda Síochána

...and many more!



Mayo Radio Experimenter's Network

# Mayo Rally 2002

Mayo Radio Experimenter's Network

Ireland's Award winning club  
are pleased to announce their first ever

## Rally

in the

## Belmont Hotel, Knock

on

## Sunday March 3rd 2002



**PRACTICAL  
WIRELESS**

**to coincide with the IRTS AGM and Dinner Dance.**

The Dinner Dance will be held on the Saturday night and the  
Rally and AGM will be held on the Sunday.

Admission €4

Doors open at  
11:00 A.M.

For further details visit: [www.mayoren.net](http://www.mayoren.net)

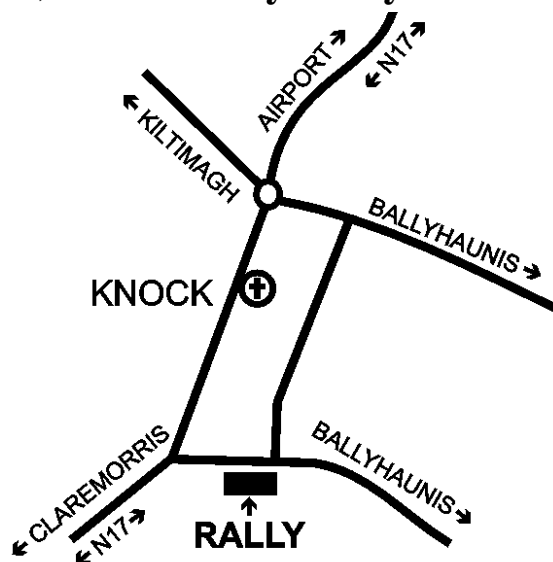
Traders contact EI9JA 087 6957154, or e-mail [rally@mayoren.net](mailto:rally@mayoren.net)

**Linear Amp UK**



**Vine Antenna Products**

- Lectures & Demonstrations
- Free car parking
- IRTS Book Stand
- Award winning restaurant
- Talk in on 145.550
- Bring and Buy
- Club Stands
- Bar
- Morse Tests
- All day carvery



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